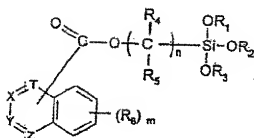


IN THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-54: Cancelled

55. (Previously Presented) A silyl alkyl ester having the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

$R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are equal or different and represent alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

$R_4$  and  $R_5$  each represent hydrogen,

$n$  is an integer from 3 to 5,

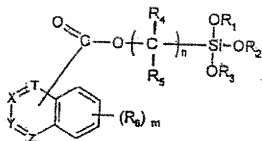
$R_6$  is a substituent selected from carboxy group, carboxylic acid ester group, carboxylic acid amide group,

$m$  is an integer from 1 to 4,

T, X, Y and Z each represent carbon,

a benzo group, which is substituted  $m$ -fold with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on one of the bonds T-X, X-Y or Y-Z to form a trinuclear aromatic ring system, wherein the silyl alkyl ester group is substituted at the middle ring of said trinuclear aromatic ring system.

56. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 55, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent alkyl.
57. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 55, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  are selected, independently of one another, from methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, 2-methylpropyl, 1-methylpropyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl.
58. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 57, wherein  $R_1$ ,  $R_2$ , and  $R_3$  each represent methyl or ethyl.
59. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 55, wherein a benzo group, which is m-fold substituted with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on the X-Y bond.
60. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 59, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on the X-Y bond ~~and m=0~~.
61. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 55, wherein a benzo group, which is m-fold substituted with  $R_6$  or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond.
62. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 61, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond ~~and m=0~~.
63. (Previously Presented) A silyl alkyl ester having the formula (I)



(I)

wherein

R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are equal or different and represent alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> are equal or different and represent hydrogen, halogen, alkyl, aryl and heteroaryl,

n is an integer from 1 to 10,

R<sub>6</sub> is a substituent selected from carboxy group, carboxylic acid ester group, carboxylic acid amide group,

m is an integer from 1 to 4,

T, X, Y and Z each represent carbon,

a benzo group, which is substituted m-fold with R<sub>6</sub> or which is unsubstituted, is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond to form a trinuclear aromatic ring system, wherein the silyl alkyl ester group is substituted at the middle ring of said trinuclear aromatic ring system.

64. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 63, wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> each represent alkyl.
65. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 63, wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> are selected, independently of one another, from methyl, ethyl, n-propyl, iso-propyl, n-butyl, 2-methylpropyl, 1-methylpropyl and 1,1-dimethylethyl.
66. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 65, wherein R<sub>1</sub>, R<sub>2</sub>, and R<sub>3</sub> each represent methyl or ethyl.
67. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 63, wherein R<sub>4</sub> and R<sub>5</sub> each

represent hydrogen.

68. (Previously Presented) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 63, wherein n is an integer from 1 to 5.
69. (Currently Amended) The silyl alkyl ester according to claim 63, wherein an unsubstituted benzo group is condensed on either the T-X or Y-Z bond ~~and m=0~~.
70. (Previously Presented) A composition that comprises at least one silyl alkyl ester according to claim 55 or 63 and at least one further reactive silane.
71. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 70, wherein the reactive silane is selected from alkoxyxilanes and halogen silanes.
72. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 70, wherein the reactive silane comprises triethoxysilane (HTEOS), tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), methyltriethoxysilane (MTEOS), dimethyldiethoxysilane, tetramethoxysilane (TMOS), methyltrimethoxysilane (MTMOS), trimethoxysilane, dimethyldimethoxysilane, phenyltriethoxysilane (PTEOS), phenyltrimethoxysilane (PTMOS), diphenyldiethoxysilane, diphenyldimethoxysilane, trichlorosilane, methyltrichlorosilane, ethyltrichlorosilane, phenyltrichlorosilane, tetrachlorosilane, dichlorosilane, methyldichlorosilane, dimethyldichlorosilane, chlorotriethoxysilane, chlorotrimethoxysilane, chloromethyltriethoxysilane, chloroethyltriethoxysilane, chlorophenyltriethoxysilane, chloromethyltrimethoxysilane, chloroethyltrimethoxysilane and chlorophenyltrimethoxysilane.
73. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 72, wherein the reactive silane is selected from triethoxysilane (HTEOS), tetraethoxysilane (TEOS), methyltriethoxysilane (MTEOS), tetramethoxysilane (TMOS), methyltrimethoxysilane (MTMOS), phenyltriethoxysilane (PEOS) and phenyltrimethoxysilane (PTMOS).
74. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 70, which comprises a solvent or solvent mixture.
75. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 74, wherein the solvent or solvent mixture comprises at least one component selected from water, linear or branched alkyl

alcohol having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched ketone having 1 to 6 carbon atoms, linear or branched carboxylic acid ester having 1 to 6 carbon atoms ~~and~~ or linear or branched carboxylic acid amide having 1 to 6 carbon atoms.

76. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 74, wherein the solvent or solvent mixture comprises at least one component selected from water, acetone, 1-propanol, 2-propanol, butanol, methylisobutylketone, methoxypropanol, propoxypropanol, ethyl acetate and propyl acetate.
77. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 70, which comprises an aqueous solution of at least one protonic acid or an aqueous solution of at least one acid anhydride.
78. (Previously Presented) A composition according to claim 77, wherein the protonic acid is nitric acid.

Claims 79-95: Cancelled.